

GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

GCARC
GRAYSON CO. TEXAS USA

September 2023

Having Fun with Amateur Radio

Vol 29, No 9

Events
Coming Up

President's QSO

Next Operating
Club Event
Eisenhower
Birthday Special
Event
October 14-22

1st and 3rd & 5th
Sunday Nets
Dates/Net Control:
9/17 – Marvin Schiavone
10/1 – Tamara Higgins
10/15 – Lee Sly
Time: 8:00 PM Local
Repeater: 147.000+

Next Regular Club Monthly Meeting Date: Sept 19, 2023 7 PM @ Grandvs Eats from 6-7PM **FOX HUNT** September 23rd 9AM - 12PM Start location at Grandy's **After the Hungry Hams** Breakfast from 8 to 9AM and **Emergency Power** meeting **Ladies Net** Sept 25 7PM - 441.325 + 5MHZ Hostess - Tamara KI5ZIP

Howdy Fellow Ham's!

Please join us at Grandy's on Tuesday September 19th, in Sherman for our meal at 6:00pm and meeting at 7:00pm. We will have a presentation from our own KI5NUI, Michael Coffman. Michael will discuss APRS and Digipeaters. We've been getting crowded, so show up early to get a great seat.

Speaking of getting crowded, <u>beginning in October</u> we have decided to move our monthly meeting to the TCOG building at 1117 Gallagher Dr, Sherman, TX 75090. It's the multi-story building just west of the new Apartments by Sam's Club and next to the W5RVT repeater. Although food is not available here, it offers us more room and better AV equipment for presentations, and we will attempt to live stream our meetings as well. With all of that said, drive by your favorite food establishment, grab some grub and join us at 7:00 pm. on October 17th.

Also <u>beginning in October</u>, we will host VE Testing for Technician, General and <u>Extra Class Licenses before our monthly meetings</u>. Lee Sly, N5SLY is our new VE Team Leader, and he and his team will offer the exams at the TCOG meeting room at 6:00pm each meeting day. Along with this change, we are in the planning stages of hosting a Technician Class Certification Course. We will have more on this as plans progress.

Our monthly Hungry Hams Breakfast will be on September 23rd at 0800. Join us at Grandy's in Sherman for breakfast and the Emergency Power Group meeting. We will have a fox hunt after breakfast/meeting, so be sure you bring a handheld radio and a directional antenna if you have one. Ricky Jessen, KG5FDT will oversee the Fox Hunt since he was the first one to find the fox in August.

Our Emergency Power Group is planning a Portable Solar Power Build Day on Saturday September 30, 2023. We will meet for breakfast at Taco's Don Lupe in Tom Bean at 8:00 am and then go across the street to the Tom Bean Fire Station to work on our Solar Projects. If you are working on portable solar, want to learn about solar or need your questions answered this is the place to be. Please bring basic tools and all your gear.

As your club president for 2023, I have an open feedback policy, so contact me via cell phone/text at 903-818-2257 and via email at KI5BMN@gmail.com. Please reach out to me or any board member anytime with any questions, comments, feedback, or ideas. I look forward to seeing you and many new Hams at the September meeting.

Regards and 73,

Ship - KI5BMN

2023 GCARC CLUB OFFICERS

President: James Shiplet – KI5BMN – (<u>president@graysoncountyarc.org</u>)

Vice President: Ricky Jessen – KG5FDT – (vp@graysoncountyarc.org)

Secretary: David Darcy - KF5LKG - (secretary@graysoncountyarc.org)
Treasurer: Ralph Jerome - KI5NUK - (treasurer@graysoncountyarc.org)
Director at Large: Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA - (directoratlarge@graysoncountyarc.org)

License Trustee: Rick Simmons - K5ECX - (<u>rr52s@yahoo.com</u>)

Email to All Officers: (officers@graysoncountyarc.org)
Club Email address: (gcarcclub@gmail.com)

Webmaster - Newsletter Editor - James Frank - KW5CW - (editor@graysoncountyarc.org)

Club Address

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 642, Sherman TX 75091

SPECIAL NOTE

Everyone, please log into HAMCLUBONLINE.com and verify and update all information as needed, including your current email address so you can continue to receive notifications on your membership.

Next Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Meeting

Where: Grandy's Restaurant Date: Sept 19, 2023

(Last meeting at Grandy's Restaurant)

Time: 7:00PM – 8:30PM (Approximate)

Presentation: 'APRS and Digipeaters'

- Michael Coffman - KI5NUI



Grayson County Amateur Radio Club 08/15/2023 Meeting Minutes

Six officers were present:

James Shiplet President KI5BMN

Ricky Jessen Vice President KG5FDT

Ralph Jerome Treasury KI5NUK

James Frank Old Director at Large KW5CW (outa' here)

Marvin Schiavone (NEW DIRECTOR AT LARGE) KG5GMA

Ricky Jessen Acting Secretary KG5FDT

Business meeting called to order.

1. President James BMN called meeting to order 7:00 pm at Grandy's restaurant.

2. We went right into the Presentation.

Presentation

- 1. Tim Duffy (K3LR) CEO of DX Engineering gave a presentation about importance of having the correct matched antenna for best results.
- 2. Thanks to James Frank for organizing the presentation.

23 Hams + (4) Guests

N5SLY, KW5CW, KG5FDT, KI5BMN, KG5GMA, KI5NUK, KG5SKM, WW5GRW, KI5ZIP, KI5ZIQ, KG5SJY, KG5TPY, KI5IPH, K5EKA, WO5JBC, W5DRT, KG5QPI, AA5KK, KJ5APU, K1MRK, KJ5BFD, KF5TDQ, KF5JUO.

Guests; Tony Levstik, Jeff Austin, Jay Austin, Ken Westfall

Minutes July 2023

- 3. July 2023 minutes Approved.
 - 1. Andrew SKM, Seconded Lee SLY.
 - 2. Passed Unanimously

Treasurer's Report July 2023 (Ralph NUK reporting)

4. Balance 7/01/2023 \$2707.58

5. Balance 7/31/2023 \$2830.01 1. 50/50 \$66.00 6. Expenses \$3.00 7. Income \$122.43

7. 50/50 Christmas Fund \$176.00



Old Business

1. No Old Business to discuss.

New Business

- 2. Director at Large position
 - 1. Opened floor to nominations.
 - 2. Ricky Jessen FDT declined nomination from previous meeting.
 - 3. Marvin Schiavone, GMA, was nominated at the previous meeting.
 - 4. Mike Whitten, IPH, made motion nominations cease. Ralph Jerome, NUK, second.
 - 5. Congratulations to Marvin Schiavone, he is the new director at large. He takes office immediately.
- 3. By-Laws discussion
 - 1. By-Law special committee will be appointed.
 - 1. They will consider changing the director at large position from a two-year term to a one-year term with the outgoing president becoming that position as a non-voting board member.
 - 2. They will also consider additions concerning donations and how to properly accept or reject a donation.
- 4. James Shiplett, BMN, accepted Joe Hayse donation of \$2500.00.
- 5. James Frank, KW5CW made a presentation on the website's new BBB discussion page.
- 6. Linda Tuma, announced that there will be a Ladies net every fourth Monday @ 7PM on 441.325 + 5 MHZ pl tone of 82.5 (KG5SKM repeater). Next net on September 25th.

ARES News

- 8. Winlink Wednesday 08/16/2023.
- 9. Training net August 26, 2023

Up-Coming Presentations

- 10. September APRS Mike Coffman NUI
- 11. October Steve Lott

Club Sunday night nets

8/20 KW5CW 9/3 No Net 9/17 KG5GMA 10/1 KI5ZIP 10/15 N5SLY 10/29 KI5BMN 11/5 KI5ZIQ 11/19 **TBA** 12/3 **TBA** 12/17 **TBA** 12/31 **NO NET**

Group Report

Hungary Hams/Emergency Power

- 1. Meeting Grandy's 08/26/20023 8:00 am.
- 2. Fox Hunt immediately following breakfast. Michael Coffman, NUI in charge.

Drawings

- 1. Jeff Austin, Lions club visitor, won Door prize.
- 2. James Shiplet, BMN, won second Door prize.
- 3. David Turner won 50/50. He donated 50/50 all back to the club

Business meeting Adjourned.

4. Adjourned 8:45.

Minutes submitted by Ricky Jessen KG5FDT for current Secretary Dave KF5LKG. 73's everyone and God Bless...



August Financial Report – Ralph Jerome - Treasurer

			Amount
Bank Balance at time of last months report 7/31/23			\$ 2,830.01
Bank Balance at time of report 8/31/2023			\$ 5,426.17
Income - Note PayPal payments don't include fees			
PayPal Dues			47.27
50/50			64.00
Cash Dues			40.00
QSL Donatoions			31.00
Donation From NightHawk Investigations			2,500.00
Total Income			\$ 2,682.27
Annual Dues Income TO DATE	tota	al	746.51
Expenses			
New Email Domain			-9.63
Business Cards			-76.48
- · · · -			•••
Total Expenses			-86.11
Cash on hand			\$ 20.00
Petty Cash			20.00
Total Checks & other funds deposited			
Cash Dues			40.00
Dues-PayPal			47.27
50/50			64.00
QSL Donations			31.00
Donation From NightHawk Investigations			2,500.00
Final Total at time of report			\$ 2,682.27
Checks Written #147 James Frank - New E-mail Domain			0.63
			9.63
#149 Ralph Jerome - GCARC Business Cards Total Checks Written			76.48
Total Checks Written	Do	nosit to	86.11
50 - 50 Raffle Christmas Gift Fund		posit to ecking	Total
Beginning Balance		0.00	0.00
January		97.00	97.00
February	-	79.00	79.00
March		59.00	59.00
April May	+	58.00 46.00	58.00 46.00
June (1/2 donated to ARES)		39.00	39.00
July (1/2 donated to club)		66.00	33.00
August (1/2 donated to club)		64.00	32.00
September		5 1.00	32.00
October			
November			
Ending Balance	\$	508.00	\$ 443.00

Grayson County ARC Budget Items Calendar Year 2023	Budget Amount	Actual Expenses
Operating Events		
Winter Field Day 2023	200.00	0.00
Food, Drinks & Supplies		
Camping Spot		-138.60
Perrin Field Museum Special Event	50.00	0.00
Food, Drinks & Supplies		
ARRL Field Day	138.60	-85.24
Food, Drinks & Supplies	50.00	
Red River Bridge War Special Event Food, Drinks & Supplies	50.00	0.00
Eisenhower Birthday Special Event Food, Drinks & Supplies	50.00	0.00
Operating Events Total	400.00	-223.84
QSL Management /Administrative		100.00
PO Box Rental Web Domain	165.00 25.00	
Email Domain	9.63	
QSL Management /Administrative/Finance Total	190.00	
Christmas Party		
Christmas Party Expenses	150.00	
Christmas Party Total	150.00	0.00
Equipment Hard/Soft	•	
Accessories (Cable Antenna Tuner)	50.00	
GCARC Signs for Events	133.67	
IC 7300 Radio	850.00	-850.00
Equipment Hard/Soft Total	183.67	-1,033.62
Total Budget Approved	923.67	
Total Budget Spent		-1,433.09
Estimated 2023 Dues Income		940.00
Budget approved 01/17/23		



QSL Managers Message

Here are the answers for the Quiz that was published in last month's newsletter.

- 1. The first "rule" of the DX Code of Conduct is, "I will listen, listen and then listen again before calling."
- 2. It is OK to use local time in your log book to record the contacts you make. False, you must use ZULU time, UTC Universal Time, or GMT Greenwich Mean Time

The correct word to use in the phonetic alphabet for the letter S is...

C. Sierra

Two useful knots for ham radio operators to use when erecting a vertical antenna are the Clove Hitch and the Taught Line Hitch.

Regarding Band Conditions using Solar-Terrestrial Data the SFI and SN numbers are better when they are Higher. The A & K numbers are better when they are Lower.

According to the DX Code of Conduct I will send only my suffix when calling another station to shorten how much information I transmit. False, always say your complete call sign.

Transceivers can send and receive radio signals at the same time. False. Radios either receive or transmit.

They cannot do both at the same time. I'm amazed at how many hams talk at the same time as the other station. What are they thinking???

You must get a Signal Report from another station to have a valid contact. False, although everyone wants to get a Signal Report all 3rd Party QSL service providers don't require a Signal Report to Confirm a contact.

QRZ means? Who is calling me?

What is a Grid Square? A location on Earth. Another way of describing Longitude and Latitude. Easier to understand than Degrees, Minutes and Seconds.

I posted a survey on Facebook and asked about how long our Special Events should last. The results are in and 57% of those that took the survey felt that 7 days was the right length.... Saturday – Friday. 14% felt that 9 days was the right length (what we do now) and 28% felt that we should only have the events for 2 days. Our last Special Event is coming up in October and it is scheduled to last for 9 days. But I'd like to propose that next year we shorten all our Special Events to 7 days...Saturday, 0000z – Friday, 2359z. What say you?

I have volunteered to be the Team Leader for the VE Testing Group for the Grayson County ARC. We'll start to have testing available in October before our club meetings and every month except for December. If you want to upgrade your license or know someone who wants to get their Amateur Radio License, you'll be able to take the test now easily before a club meeting. So... start studying!

I haven't been doing a lot of POTA, (Parks on The Air) Activation's lately because it has been too darn hot here in Texas. Hope to get more active when it cools off in the fall. Will keep you posted on Facebook.

Finally, our next special event is coming upon us fast. The Eisenhower Birthday Special Event runs from October 14, 2023, 0000z – October 22, 2023, 2359z. Again, this year we'll be using 10 1X1 call signs. We have a great bunch of guest operators who will be participating this year. They are...

W5E Brian, K9KSU, and friends in Kansas

W5I Paul, K7RKO, in Nevada

W5S Don, WV1W, in Connecticut

K5E Greg, KJ6ER, in California

W5N Kerri, KB3WAV, in Maryland

W5H Jim, K5QOI, in South Texas

W5O James, KW5CW, and Chris, K5KDE, in North Texas

W5W Julie, NF1T, in Florida

N5E Dave, NG5E, Maritime Mobile in the Gulf of Mexico

W5R Members of the GCARC in North Texas

As you can see, the last letters of the call signs spell **EISENHOWER**. Those who contact us will be able to order a certificate this year and they can also get a QSL card by sending us a SASE and their card.

We have been invited to participate in a celebration of Eisenhower's birthday at the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Site in Denison, TX on October 14 from 10 AM until 4 PM. So, no matter what your interests are please join us that day to celebrate Ike's birthday. Not only is that Ike's birthday, it is also the 1st day of our special event, and it is also a POTA site, K-6553. Can't ask for more than that.

Have fun everyone.

73

Lee N5SLY

lee.n5sly@gmail.com

K5GCC

Upcoming Eisenhower Event to Provide Certificates

The Eisenhower Special Event is less than a month away, and it will be a great operating event this year. There are stations across the country using the 1x1 special calls that will be used for the event. There will be a little twist regarding the activity this year, as the club will provide certificates. If GCARC members would like to operate using a special 1x1 callsign, they can use **W5R** as the call they would use during the event. Your personal license privileges must be honored when using a special event call. Like the Route 66 and the 13 Colonies Special Event that have been held for the last several years now that provide certificates to operators, the GCARC has opted into the upcoming event with the addition of providing certificates to anyone who works at least one of the Special Event stations. Lee has always done a fantastic job coordinating all the special events throughout the years, but this year it will take a coordinated effort to get the certificates out to operators. This is the first time the club is offering certificates to operators, and hopefully the mailing of certificates will go smoothly. During the contest and especially after the conclusion, the club can receive a \$5 donation to the club from people who want the certificate. The fee is NOT Mandatory. The monies received are considered a donation, so sending the funds will be encouraged by the writeup on the 1x1 QRZ web pages which should appear after the upcoming meeting on September 19th. A logging form and a submission form will be provided that operators can use during the event and use to submit for the certificate, posted on QRZ.com.

A preview of the certificate follows...I'm using Lee – N5SLY as an example. It will be on colored parchment paper... I'll make an effort to have a finalized framed semi-final copy at the upcoming meeting...





Director-At-Large Elected at August Meeting

At the August 2023 meeting, a new Director-At-Large was elected. Congrats go to Marvin Schiavone – KG5GMA who is now the new Director-at-Large, replacing James Frank – KW5CW. The election was required by the GCARC Constitution to take place this at the August meeting as James held the position for 2 years. So, yours truly, James – KW5CW has relinquished the position at the last meeting. The new officer at large will be responsible for making sure that the incoming officers for 2024 don't skip a beat regarding what is going on and what is coming up in 2024. This year, all the present officers must relinquish their titles, as each of them have been an officer in their capacity for 2 years.

New Officer Positions for 2024 – Nominations in October

As stated last month in the newsletter, all officer positions will be up for grabs for the upcoming 2024 calendar year. Nominations are in October, and elections of officers for 2024 will take place in November. If you ever had a thought of becoming a leader of the club, now is the time to step up and make your wishes known. As your past Officer-at-Large, I can personally state that the club is moving in the right direction, and it is important to keep things going into the new year.

It is possible that one or more of the present officers may step up and pick up another officer position in 2024, which would ensure that the club will continue moving in a very positive direction. But the club also needs 'new blood' regarding leaders in the club. Again, if you are interested, come to the next meeting, and state your desire to become an officer.

Tamara Higgins – KI5ZIP - Webmaster for ZipFotos Webpages

Tamara has officially taken over the GCARC ZipFotos sub-domain located at zipfotos.graysoncountyarc.org. She took pictures at the August meeting as she has for the last 8 months, but this time, she personally took control of the webpages and added the photos she took and added them to the website.

The Zipfotos website may change its looks in the coming months, as she can do what she wants with it, but thanks to her dedication as our photographer, we now have for the first-time monthly pictures of activities and club meetings for every month of this year. And, to think she just received her first Amateur license in January. She has stepped up, not just to be our club photographer, but she already ran two of the Ladies Nets on the KG5SKM repeater and is about to run her second Good News and Information Net on the KG5SKM 440 repeater on October 1st all since January.

How to Pay Dues Using HamClubonline.com Follow these 7 easy steps

- 1) Go to Hamclubonline.com Homepage
- 2) On homepage, click on 'Pay My Club Dues'
- 3) On this page, type in your callsign and click 'Submit.'
- 4) Select Club for Payment
- 5) Click Blue Line Button 'Click here to renew your existing membership.'
- 6) Type in the Amount to Pay i.e. 20.00 for 1 Year renewal with GCARC
- 7) Click 'Submit'

Note: If you are going to change your membership type, i.e. to family membership, you can also do that there.

GCARC WEBSITE UPDATES by James – KW5CW

The GCARC website is in its latest phase which was published in its current form since last January. I hope everyone views and likes what they see published on it. New ideas for the website pop up from time to time. Two of the latest things published have been the BBS pages and Zip Fotos. Have any new ideas? Let me know!

The BBS has been available since January but using it by all members hasn't become a purposeful reality, as it is just being used by a select few members. It was my idea to make it available to the club, but the idea of do we really need it was brought to my attention, and why we would need it. I can briefly talk about it at the meeting, and we can discuss it. Members communicate on social media pages such as Facebook and with the additions for Linkedln and Instagram club pages, there may not be a need for it. So, I will leave it up to the members to decide. Anyone can view its pages, but if you would like to create your own forum, for example, you would need an ID and Password to be able to update it in real time. A forum consists of posts by different individuals interested in a specific topic or name which is the Forum name. If you are interested in making a forum or updates of your own, it is easy to do if you have access to publish. Polls and various forms can also be available for the club on the BBS.

ZipFotos on the website is now exclusively managed by Tamara – KI5ZIP who has been our photographer since January. Tamara and her husband Mike have attended every meeting this year. She may be making changes to that photos page soon. I can hardly wait to see her ideas come to life.



More on BBS Functions on the Website

The existing forums on the BBS are accessible by anyone who has registered.

Welcome sections, including Rules and Information, About GCARC, Club news and Member Files And Red River Bridge War Special Event updated by Cynthia – K5EKA. For Sale and Trade was last updated by Lee – N5SLY. The following present forums are the following:

For Sale and trade
Elmer Connection
Radio Review and Discussion
Everything Digital
Handheld Corner
CW Corner
Skywarn, ARES, RACES Discussion
License and Testing
Parks on the Air
ARRL Information
FCC Updates and News

You can create a forum if you like that's not already on the BBS. Let your friends know about this GCARC feature and invite them to visit the club webpages. Others will then have a chance to post updates on the new forum.

THE GCARC LADIES NET

The first GCARC Ladies Net was held last month. It is a place for the ladies to chat about things of their interest within or outside of amateur radio. The GCARC Ladies Net welcomes men to also participate.

If interested in participating, the next ladies net will be on the 25th of September at 7PM. Presently, it is held on the KG5SKM repeater on 441.325 + 5 MHZ pl tone of 82.5 on the 4th Monday of each month. Your hostess is Tamara Higgins – KI5ZIP. Access also via Winlink node 831760 or AllStar node 53477. Download an app called RepeaterPhone to access both AllStar and Winlink nodes with the same APP on your phone. Again, men are encouraged to support the ladies by participating on the net.



NEWSLETTER IN 2024

Just as the GCARC website changed face in January of 2023, the newsletter is about to have a facelift by this coming January 2024. It will be more streamlined, look a bit more professional, and will contain what people want to see. More on this next month.

Fox Hunt Saturday, September 23rd, 2023

Starting point...Grandy's, Sherman, TX

Start time...9 AM

End time...12 Noon

Frequency of Fox...146.565 Mhz

Location of Fox to be determined by Ricky Jessen – KG5FDT who found the FOX last month. A clue of its location will be given at the Hungry Hams breakfast at Grandys (8:00AM) prior to the hunt.

A HT and a Tape Measure Yagi antenna are perfect for a Fox Hunt. A Attenuator, or Pringles Can Antenna, can be very helpful when you are close to the Fox by reducing the strength of the incoming signal.

Here are some instructions for making a Tape Measure antenna... theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

&

some information about Attenuators...

Fox Hunting - 3rd Planet Solar / KC9ON



Local and Regional Repeater Systems in and near Sherman Texas

Frequency	<u>Offset</u>	Tone Up / Down	Location	County	<u>Call</u>	<u>Use</u>	Modes
147.0000	+0.6 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	Sherman	Grayson	W5RVT	OPEN	FM
<u>147.2800</u>	+0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	Sherman	Grayson	W5COP	OPEN	FM
<u>441.3250</u>	+5 MHz	82.5 / 82.5	Sherman	Grayson	KG5SKM	OPEN	FM EchoLink +AllStar
444.7500	+5 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	Sherman	Grayson	W5RVT	OPEN	FM

Make note of the KG5SKM Open repeater, owned, and operated in Sherman by one of our club members – Andrew Bentley – KG5SKM. The repeater has been recently activated. It is located at Sherman Radio Station KQDR, 900 E Pecan Grove Rd, Sherman, Texas 75092. It contains an Allstar Node – 53477 and an Echolink Node 831760. The antenna is located just 20 feet off the ground and has a 35 mile range.

Other repeaters accessible from Sherman are as follows:

W5DWH Denison

145.330 -600 offset PL 100 Transmit and receive

WD5U Rosston

145.490 -600 offset PL 85.4

K5FRC VHF Bonham

145.470 -600 offset PL 100.0

NCTC UHF Bonham

443.750 +5 offset PL 100.0

KF5SOX UHF Bells

444.950 +5 offset No PL at this time



Grayeon County Amateur Radio Club General Info

Become a Member of the GCARC click here: https://graysoncountyarc.org/membership/

- 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday GCARC Information Net Control Schedule: https://graysoncountyarc.org/about-gcarc/net-control-schedule/
- Visit the GCARC Website www.graysoncountyarc.org
- ₱ Visit the GCARC Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/groups/k5gcc
- Submit articles for GCARC newsletter to: editor@k5gcc.org
- E-mail change updates @ http://hamclubonline.com

Club Patches and Clothing Options:

Option 1. From Ham Threads: https://www.hamthreads.com/ get a large variety of clothing styles with GCARC, ARES and or Skywam Logos, Call Sign and Name. See Examples Below.







Option 2. Order from the club Treasurer using the form below. Additionally, you can order premade ARES and Skywarn patches for \$4.00 each and GCARC Club Patches for \$5.00 each.



